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## Out of Danger—Was It Overdose?

# Powers' Wife & Sleep Pills

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON.

Mrs. Barbara Powers, 27-year-old wife of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, was taken to a hospital yesterday suffering from what police reported were the effects of an overdose of sleeping pills. She was later described as out of danger. Mr. Powers accompanied her to the hospital.

The Powers have been living for several weeks at an apartment in suburban Alexandria, Va. Mrs. Powers was taken to the Alexandria Hospital shortly after 3:30 a. m. She was transferred to Georgetown University Hospital in Washington at 6:20 a. m.

The Alexandria Hospital said she was treated there for "medication reaction." Lt. Nelson Rickey of the District of Columbia police said investigating officers were told Mrs. Powers had taken about 28 nembutal tablets, a barbiturate drug used to induce sleep.

He did not say who gave this information.

Mrs. Powers was unconscious when admitted to Georgetown and an attending physician said her condition was very serious at that time. However, a few hours later, she was reported semi-conscious and the hospital's executive director, Charles D. Shields, said: "Her condition is still being evaluated, but she is in satisfactory condition and out of danger."

Dr. G. E. Schreiner, who is attending Mrs. Powers, said she is being treated for acute gastritis because it is known "medication was available to her." But, he added, "we don't know if she took them."

Mr. Powers remained at the Georgetown hospital until mid-morning and then left "to get things squared away," a doctor said. Mr. Powers was not available for comment and hospital officials declined to say what he told them of his wife's illness.

Mr. Powers, now 32, came into the news in May, 1960, after his U2 spy plane was brought down while on a picture-making reconnaissance mission over the Soviet Union. Convicted as a spy, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment but was freed last February in a deal involving the simultaneous release of Col. Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy serving a 30-year sentence in this country. The Central Intelligence Agency cleared Mr. Powers of any dereliction of duty and he was returned to his \$30,000-a-year CIA job.

Mrs. Powers is the former Barbara Moore of Albany, Ga. The couple were married in 1954 and there are no children.

Mrs. Powers was living with her husband at his base in Turkey before he went down in Russia. She attended his trial in Moscow and most of the period of his imprisonment she spent at her mother's home in Milledgeville, Ga.



Associated Press wirephoto

Mrs. Barbara Powers with her husband at reunion in February.